



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY MARCH 20, 2019**

**HB-7192 Governor's Bill
AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EFFICIENCIES**

Good afternoon Senator Cassano, Representative McCarthy Vahey, Senator Champagne, Representative Zawistowski and distinguished members of the Public Safety Committee. My name is Roger Nelson and I am the Fire Marshal for the Bloomfield Center Fire District and currently sit on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

The Connecticut Fire Marshals Association opposes **Section 25 of HB-7192 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EFFICIENCIES.**

This section would require three to six families be inspected at least once every three calendar years and seven to sixteen families be inspected at least once every two calendar years. The CFMA is concerned with public safety in these dwelling units. The proposed language would increase inspections from annually to two and three year schedules.

These multifamily residences experience the majority of fires in Connecticut.
Below are the CT fire statistics for the last three years:

2017:	1474 fires in multifamily dwellings
2016:	1440 fires in multifamily dwellings
2015:	1362 fires in multifamily dwellings

The CFMA is consistently opposed to statutorily changed code regulated matters. Code changes should be done through the public code making process.

We are currently working with the Office of the Governor on a solution to this safety issue that will work for all stakeholders.

Thank you.